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# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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BAPTISTS

## Wright sees 'radical' changes for SBC

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — Southern Baptists have been given a tremendous opportunity to help literally fulfill the Great Commission in their lifetime, but it will take a "radical reprioritization" to make it happen, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention told trustees of the SBC Executive Committee meeting in Nashville on Sept. 21.

"With the passion of the young adult Christians of today, with the modern means of travel, with the modern technology, God has given us an opportunity to fulfill His Great Commission in our lifetime," Bryant Wright said. "The question we have to ask is, even though our denomination will just be one part of His Kingdom enterprise, are we as Southern Baptists going to be willing to pay the price — the radical price — to do what it takes to see that the Gospel is taken to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts in our lifetime?"

"The realistic possibility that the Gospel could, in the words of Matthew 24:14, 'be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations' in this generation should drive all Southern Baptists to prayer for a 'radical reprioritization' in both their giving and going for missions," said Wright, senior pastor of Johnson Ferry Church in Marietta, Ga.

The average evangelical Christian gives about 2.4% of his financial resources to "the Lord's work," Wright noted, and local congregations, Baptist state conventions, and national Southern Baptist entities also could pass along more financial resources to the cause of taking the Gospel to those who have yet to hear.

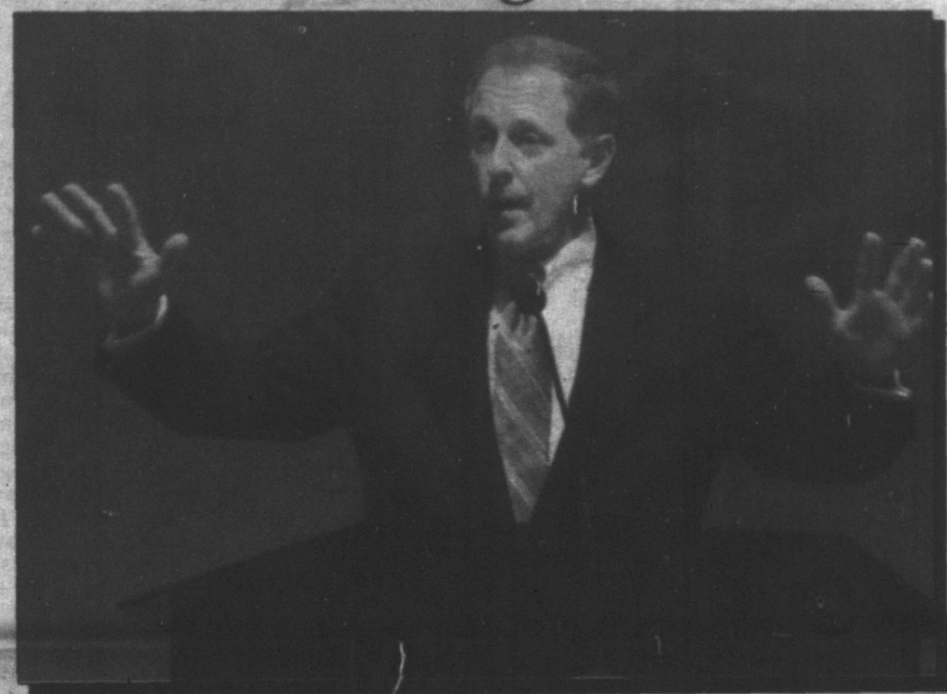
"We can profess all day long that we are Christian, but the fact is that we love our money a lot more than we love Jesus," Wright said. "The local church [also] has to be serious about sacrificial giving when it comes to the global mission calling that Christ has given us. We as a denomination need to be as well."

"It is my hope and prayer that as we think about the Cooperative Program and how it has been central to how we carry out our part of the calling of this Kingdom vision of Jesus Christ, that there can be a radical reprioritization of our funding within the Cooperative Program."

Like most recent presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention, Wright has led his church to reduce Cooperative Program funding and instead kept the money for church-sponsored mission activities and for direct contributions outside Cooperative Program channels to Southern Baptist mission causes.

Johnson Ferry Church currently gives 2.5% of undesignated contributions to the Cooperative Program. Southern Baptist churches are autonomous and free to control the disbursement of undesignated contributions, but the established church goal is ten percent and it is not unusual for Mississippi Baptist churches to set their Cooperative Program gifts above that goal on an annual basis.

The report of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force, approved by mes-



ADDRESSING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE — Southern Baptist Convention President Bryant Wright, senior pastor of Johnson Ferry Church in Marietta, Ga., voices his call for a "radical reprioritization" of Southern Baptist giving during the September 21 meeting of the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville. (BP photo)

sengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in June of this year, called for the Cooperative Program to continue to be the main channel for missions giving. Wright has not said whether he would encourage the members of the church he pastors to increase their Cooperative Program giving in light of the report.

Churches also need to make a radical commitment to go on mission in greater numbers than ever before, Wright said. "It is my hope that every single church in our convention will take at least one mission trip, with the pastor being part of that trip, over the next year. There is no way I could adequately describe to you how mission trips have impacted the life of Johnson Ferry."

"When people are going through weeks of discipleship training, learning how to have a better quiet time, learning how to share their faith with a different people group cross-culturally, they come back better Christians from the experiences they have had."

"The Lord has done a God-thing in the life of Johnson Ferry. What began as one spring-break high school mission trip has just grown to be a God-sized blessing in the life of Johnson Ferry. I hope that if you're one of those churches that has not taken mission trips, that 2011 will be the time you do so."

Noting the website he has set up to encourage prayer for the Southern Baptist Convention — [www.pray4sbc.com](http://www.pray4sbc.com) — Wright said he hopes churches also would focus prayer on the "final big decision Southern Baptists are facing this year."

"Two [major decisions] have already been made: God has called Frank Page to lead the Executive Committee, to lead this key part of our convention work. Most recently, God called Kevin Ezell to lead the North American Mission Board," Wright said, "and yet there is one final decision that is before us and that is the president of the International Mission Board. I can think of no decision that is going to have a more lasting impact on carrying out Christ's Great Commission, especially to the unreached people groups of the world, than what we are seeing in that decision about the president of the IMB."

Praying for God's leadership in that decision, about sacrificial giving for missions and about going on mission in greater numbers than ever before is crucial if "Baptist Christians are going to do our part in the overall Kingdom vision mindset that Jesus gives us," Wright said.

"It is my hope that there will be a radical reprioritization so we can think about these thousands of people groups who have practically no witness of the Gospel," Wright said. "Then as we think about that global calling that Christ gives us, with our own Jerusalems... with our Judeas, with our Samarias, with our uttermost parts, we will have a true global calling of what it means to do our part in Kingdom business."

"God has given us a unique opportunity and a calling we don't want to miss," Wright said. "Let's pray that God would bless us in this Kingdom enterprise."



# IMB commissions 51 new missionaries

TAMPA, FL (BP) — Six men with ski masks and machine guns stood between James Roberts and the security of a warm bed. He knew there was a possibility of facing something like this when he picked post-war Kosovo for his first mission trip.

On Sept. 15, Roberts was part of a group of new missionaries appointed by the International Mission Board (IMB) at Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon, FL. At a special service in their honor, 51 "ordinary people" including Roberts shared personal stories of calling, sacrifice and passion for making Christ's name known.

"Buildings were still smoking, tanks were still rolling down the streets," the 38-year-old Texas youth minister recalled of Kosovo. "I was just a young seminary student... I didn't know anything about the war."

It was a frigid, pitch-black night in January 2000, just months after a NATO bombing campaign forced Serbian troops from Kosovo. Fighting had destroyed much of the fledgling country and Roberts was part of a small volunteer team delivering aid to Albanian refugees.

The team was driving home from an evening church service when, to their horror, their van's headlights revealed a roadblock manned by what appeared to be rebel Serbian soldiers. One of the masked men rapped the muzzle of his weapon against the driver's window. Though none were speaking English, the soldiers' shouting and gun-waving made it clear they wanted the team out of the van — now.

They lined up Roberts and the others in front of the van and dragged the team's driver, a Southern Baptist missionary who was facilitating their trip, off to the side.

"We didn't know what to

think. We were praying and I just remember... this amazing peace came over me," Roberts said. He was ready to die for his faith.

That sacrifice wouldn't be necessary. A few minutes later the soldiers ordered everyone back into the van and sent the team on its way. Actually, the "Serbian rebels" were Italian soldiers assigned to a United Nations peacekeeping force. Their ski masks were just to keep warm while they manned a checkpoint searching vehicles for weapons.

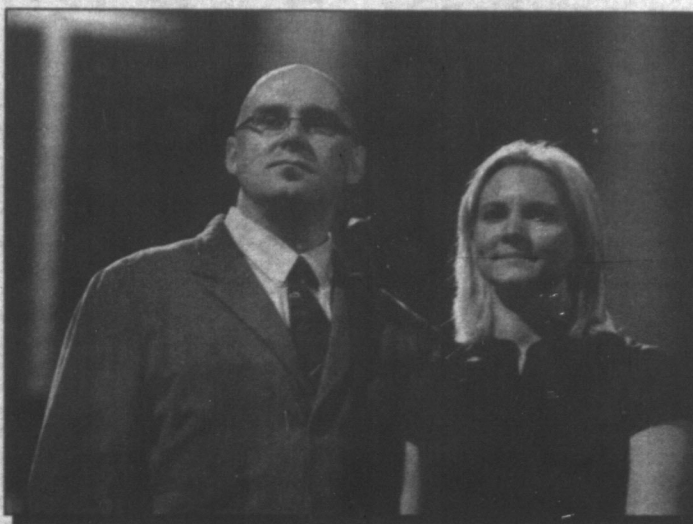
The harrowing story wasn't the only thing Roberts brought back from Kosovo. The weeklong mission trip marked the birth of a calling that, 11 years later, would lead him back overseas as a career missionary.

"God gave me a bigger picture of the world," Roberts said. "I remember coming back [to the U.S.] and trying to find a way to get back [to Kosovo]. My heart was in Eastern Europe."

Roberts' wife Angie knew God wanted her to be a missionary at age 9 while attending an evening worship service at a GA camp. Some people thought she was too young to know what she wanted to do with her life, but 21 years later, the Robertses are heading for Central Europe to plant a church in an unreached city.

Jill McCabe (not her real name), an elementary school-teacher from Texas, also was called to missions as a child. She knew at age eight exactly how she would share Christ's love: get her pilot's license and fly across Africa giving to the poor in Jesus' name. Though her plan didn't materialize as expected, she and her husband Michael will soon be leaving for Eastern Europe.

Clyde Meador, interim IMB president, highlighted the wide variety of careers from which the missionaries had come, including a roofer, forester, accountant, graphic designer, pharmacist,



**HEADED TO MISSION FIELD** — James and Angie Roberts share the story behind their call to missions during the International Mission Board's Sept. 15 missionary appointment service at Bell Shoals Church in Brandon, FL. The Robertses, who were both raised in Texas, are headed to Central Europe where they will plant churches in an unreached city. (BP photo)

nurse, scientist, engineer, and computer programmer.

Many of the missionaries left behind dream jobs, powerful titles, or big paychecks to serve God overseas.

Jerry Tilton (not his real name) gave up a career at Dell, where he worked as a finance analyst. He and his wife Susie (not her real name) are bound for South America.

Rob Peabody, 28, was on staff at Lake Pointe, a 12,000-member mega-church near Dallas. As a seminary student, Peabody served as Lake Pointe's college and singles minister, and upon graduation quickly became lead pastor of one of the church's satellite campuses.

It was a position some seminary graduates might work their entire career to reach, but Peabody and his wife Medea knew staying at Lake Pointe wasn't God's plan for them.

The Peabodys are headed to London where they will plant churches among the city's post-moderns.

Speaking from 2 Timothy, Meador offered the same charge to the new missionaries that the

Apostle Paul did to Timothy.

"Paul charges Timothy, and we charge you, to realize that whatever you go to do, you do in the power of the Lord Jesus Christ — not in the power of yourself," Meador said. "The things you go to do are things which you are incapable of doing... We all know how inadequate we are to do the work of the living God. But we also know that whatever He calls us to do, He empowers us to do, and He fills us with His Spirit to enable us to do those things."

Meador also encouraged the appointees to embrace Paul's exhortation to Timothy for patience and endurance when it comes to sharing the Gospel. "Many of you are going to work among people whose ears have already told them the only truth they want to hear is that there is no God and that everything they've heard about religion is empty and false and wrong, and if they worship anything it is whatever their particular currency is... You go understanding... that people will be resistant to truth."

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Nearly 3,000 students attended the six Youth Week conferences at Gulfshore Assembly, Pass Christian, with 81 professions of faith and 152 rededications recorded.

### 20 years ago

With the help of volunteer labor, local funds, and a gift from the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering, Calvary Chapel in Parchman is able to place a roof over the first 720 square feet of their donated facility. The chapel is a mission of Parks Church in neighboring Tallahatchie County.

### 30 years ago

Mississippi Baptists conduct a pilot program for training of associational officers in the chapel of First Church, Jackson, with 75 people coming from every association in the state for training of Sunday School, Training Union, and church music officers.



## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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**YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!**

*Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

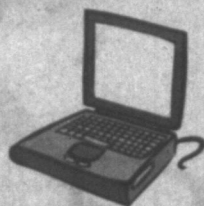
*"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)*

*If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.*

## Abortionist jailed

WASHINGTON (BP) — A Massachusetts abortion doctor and visiting scholar at Harvard School of Public Health has been sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to involuntary manslaughter in the death of a 22-year-old woman, Laura Smith, three years ago. Rapin Osathanondh, 67, was sentenced to 30 months in prison but will serve only six months because the rest of the sentence was suspended. The Boston Globe reported. The state's medical board said Osathanondh had no way to monitor Laura Smith's vital signs when he sedated her, had no one assisting him who was trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and delayed calling 911, according to The Globe. Smith died Sept. 13, 2007, during an abortion performed by Osathanondh at his Hyannis clinic. She was 13 weeks pregnant. Smith's death became noteworthy not only because it occurred while she was in the care of a doctor at an abortion clinic but because she was a member of a pro-life, evangelical Christian family. Eileen Smith did not know her engaged daughter was pregnant when her husband Tom and she received news of the botched abortion. Smith described Laura, who was born in Honduras and adopted after alleged abuse by an American couple who had previously adopted her, as pro-life and as reared in a Christian home with their other three children. Laura had made a profession of faith in Christ and been baptized at the age of 12, her mother said.





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# Getting back to a proper focus

A Mississippi Baptist pastor once lamented, "When I was growing up in church, the missionaries were our heroes. Today it seems that megachurch pastors have taken over as our heroes." If that is the case, it's not a good development.

The percentage is probably close to zero for Southern Baptist megachurch pastors who want to be considered "heroes" or anything other than servants of the Lord. The percentage is probably close to 100 for Southern Baptist megachurch pastors who are sold out to the task of winning the world to Jesus. They are well aware of, and offer tremendous commitment to, the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

It's just that some of them are not very cooperative about it, at least in the way Southern Baptists have practiced it since the 1920s. That accurately-named process is known as the Cooperative Program.

In a nutshell, the Cooperative Program is the unified giving plan for Southern Baptists that

helps pay for everything from light bulbs in the local church to international missions around the world. It is inarguably the most effective missions funding process in the Protestant world.

Under the Cooperative Program, church goers give to their local church, which retains a percentage of the funds for their local missions activities such as Vacation Bible School and Mission Friends. Local churches then send the remainder to their state Baptist convention.

The state Baptist conventions retain a portion of those funds for statewide missions activities, such as Youth Night and the Growing Churches Conference in

Mississippi, and send the remainder to the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Southern Baptist Convention, like the churches and state conventions, spends its portion of the gifts that began with the church goers for missions activities, this time on the denominational level such as the network of SBC seminaries and the missions sending agencies.

The Cooperative Program is a good system. It isn't broke. It doesn't need fixing. It's not ready to be abandoned for something better, because there is nothing better.

Among the megachurch leaders who have virtually given up on the Cooperative Program is Keith Ezell, former pastor of Highview Church in Louisville, Ky., and just-elected president of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Ezell's former church could be considered practitioners of what has become known as the independent model of missions funding. That is, churches like Highview give very little to the Cooperative Program while keeping most of church goers' gifts for church-sponsored missions activities and separate contributions outside the Cooperative Program to SBC missions efforts.

It's a fact that an autonomous Southern Baptist church can choose to support missions however it chooses, and the independent model can be an effective means of getting missions dollars in the right places. Again, however, it's just not cooperative, and can lead to a starvation of funding for legitimate missions efforts that get overlooked, aren't as dramatic as other missions efforts, or simply don't catch the fancy of the church.

Under Ezell's leadership, Highview Church is giving about 2.2% of undesignated gifts to the Cooperative Program. With an annual budget of over six million dollars, that's a paltry amount. The goal,

as established in the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force Report approved this summer by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, is 10%. Many Mississippi Baptist churches routinely give more than ten percent, and some Mississippi Baptist churches budget Cooperative Program giving as high as 18% to 20%.

"It seems surprising to me that the (NAMB presidential) search committee would recommend someone whose level of support for North American Missions through the CP and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering could not sustain the work of NAMB were it to be duplicated widely across the convention," said Emil Turner, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

In other words, Ezell as president of NAMB will now be asking churches to sacrificially support the same programs that he hardly supported as a megachurch pastor.

Ezell is not alone among megachurch pastors in exhibiting what seems at times to be a contempt for the Cooperative Program. Johnny Hunt, immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of a megachurch in Georgia, led his church to give 2.2% to the Cooperative Program in the year he was first elected president. Bryant Wright, the current president of the Southern Baptist Convention, led his Georgia megachurch to drop from 10% giving to the Cooperative Program to about 2.5% for this year.

As Turner pointed out, Southern Baptists couldn't maintain our missions efforts if all the convention's churches followed the giving patterns of some of our megachurch pastors/leaders. Perhaps it's time we took our focus off megachurches and their pastors and placed it back where it belongs. If it isn't broke, let's not fix it.

My friend Linda looked stressed. "I can't wait for my kids to go back to school," she said. "They're restless, and don't know what to do with themselves except text their friends continuously."

Meanwhile, when 15-year-old Jordan's mom picked him up from "chilling" at the home of a new friend, Jordan said, "You should see their house. They've got TVs in every room and they're all on. It was great." Pause. "Except it got boring after awhile."

Technology is indispensable. It keeps us connected to our friends, co-workers, and the world at large, and, that's great!

It's also increasingly intrusive, superficial, and loud. That's not so great for the human spirit.

Constant noise and restless spirits — they go together. The continual barrage of images, information, and virtual voices keeps the mind racing, always trying but failing to "process." We simply don't have time to think or reflect. It makes us edgy on the one hand and bored on the other. It's addicting, while at once mentally tiring, but not really satisfying.

Picture your child, like a hamster, spinning in a mental

## GUEST OPINION:



### Just turn off the screens

By Rebecca Hagelin  
Arlington, Va.

wheel that never stops. It's not overly challenging from moment to moment, but the cumulative effect can be mind-numbing and utterly draining.

Superficiality is the companion problem. TV dialogue, music lyrics, web copy, and advertising slogans capture feelings and offer snapshots of the moment but they tend to skim over substantive ideas (a life-changing insight is hard to convey in 30 seconds). They condition us for "direct response," as the marketers like to say, so we build the habit of reacting without reflecting.

The impact of this steady barrage of "noise"? Our lives may become less rich and less deep, driven by unreflective habits.

Our human spirit craves something deeper. We need time to reflect, to be alone with our thoughts, and to uncover the more profound realities of life.

In the past, simpler lifestyles sent us outdoors. Our common cultural experience included silence and the beauty of nature. The normal rhythm of unplanned time fostered imagination, creativity and reflection.

Whatever happened to just lying on the grass and watching the clouds go by, allowing your imagination to turn them into castles in the sky as you sorted through and dealt with the issues and relationships in your life?

Today, we need to work a lot harder to help our children discover the inner peace and rich personal growth that flow from

quiet reflection. Our families must learn anew how to carve out quiet time in a very loud world, to build the capacity to reflect in the midst of a culture that rewards instant action.

So how do we do that? First, insist on a daily quiet time for each person — parents and children alike. Fifteen or 30 minutes alone with the Bible, a prayer journal, or just your thoughts will go a long way towards calming the soul and creating the habit of reflection.

Secondly, turn off the screens all at once, all together, at regular times. Mealtimes, bedtimes, quiet time, and family time will become much richer without the insistent, digital clamor for attention. (Plus, it's common courtesy to focus attention on the real people in front of us!)

Create quiet places in your home. Rooms without screens invite reflection and conversation.

Make peace and quiet reflection a daily part of your life, and you and your children will reap the rewards for a lifetime.

Hagelin is a pro-family advocate, speaker, and author. Her latest book is *30 Ways in 30 Days to Save Your Family*. Sign up for her e-newsletter at [www.howtosaveyourfamily.com](http://www.howtosaveyourfamily.com).



# Page: partnerships remain vital Gospel component

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — During a brief greeting to members of the Executive Committee (EC) of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville on Sept. 21, EC president-elect Frank Page emphasized the importance of partnerships in the Gospel ministry.

"The Bible tells us in Philippians chapter 1 that there is a partnership in the Gospel. The New King James Version calls it a fellowship, but most versions call it a partnership in the Gospel," said Page, who will assume the role of president on Oct. 1.

"I want to pledge to you my partnership with you. I pledge that to you, and when I say I am a partner with you, that means a great deal to me because partners work alongside one another. They take care of one another."

Page said the Greek term *paraclete*, though often translated "comforter" or "encourager," comes from classic Greek literature in which two Greek soldiers were paired together.

"When the fighting got intense and even became hand-to-hand combat, one's *paraclete* backed up to your back and you fought to the front and to the side, knowing that someone was behind you protecting that which you could not protect yourself," Page, who was elected in June, told EC members. "To me, that's a partnership. That's where I want us to be, that we care for each other in that way, that we stand with each other in that way."

Page said while he is excited about the days ahead, he realizes that the role of president of the Executive Committee is "way beyond" his ability.

"There are forces swirling about us in our convention, in our society, that do not bode well for partnership ministry. There are forces that pull us apart, that pull us into more individual directions," he said. "...but I pledge to you to do all that I can to be your partner and to work

together to see the Gospel spread and the Great Commission accomplished."

At subsequent Executive Committee meetings, Page said, he will present a 10-year vision and strategy, which will include a goal of seeing the International Mission Board reach every unreached people group with the Gospel message.

"I'm going to be the CEO. Do you know what that means? Chief Encouragement Officer," Page said. "I want to encourage the North American Mission Board by the year 2020 to be able to share the Gospel with every man, woman, boy, and girl on this continent."

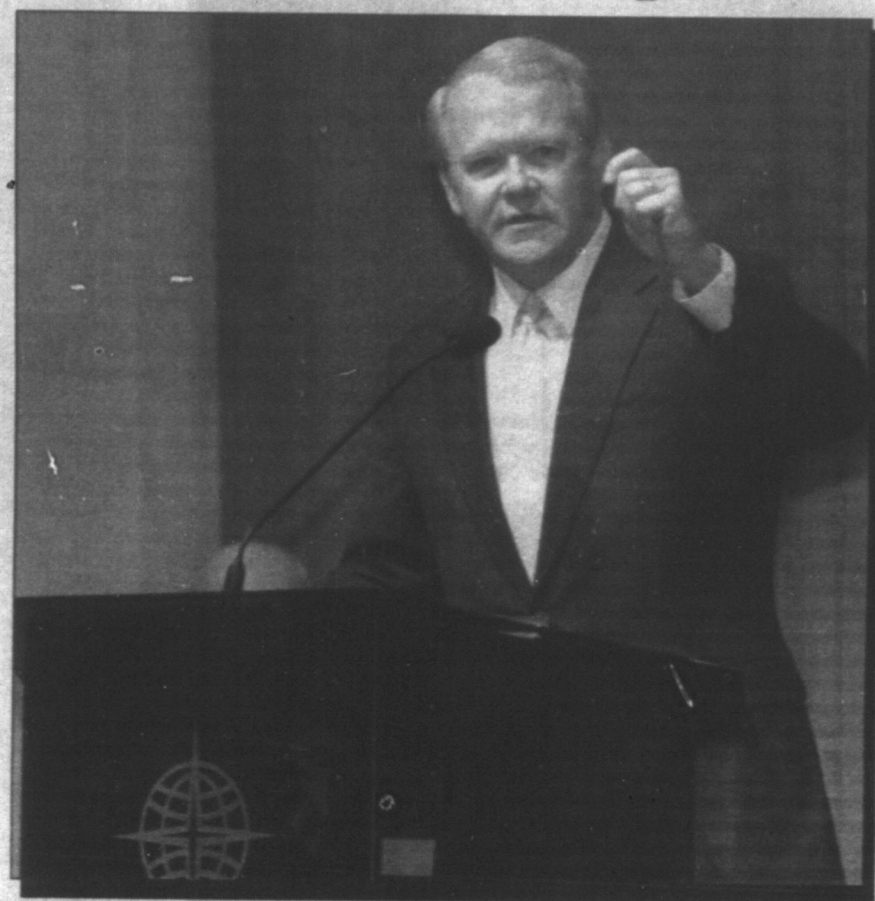
Page also intends to support the convention's other entities, including the seminaries. "Some say this whole ship is sinking," he said. "Some say fast, some say slow, but I will tell you this: Without partnerships, it is a lost cause."

"I am still naive enough to believe there is power in the Gospel and there is power in working together. There is a self-centeredness that will do us in, but there is a partnership that will strengthen us together," Page said.

"I take these few moments to say I want to be the chief encouraging officer of this convention. I want to encourage you, and above all that, I love churches, and I want to see churches become mission centers in their own environments."

Page expressed a love for all people, no matter their race or status, and he said he has begun a strategy to build relationships. "Even prior to this meeting I have been with three of our seminary presidents," he said. "I have had personal, private meetings with four of our state execs. I have met with pastors, usually one to two a day in my brief month and a half here."

"I am doing everything I can to travel across this nation, and yes, across the globe to establish relation-



Page

ships, to say, 'Would you partner together with me in the Gospel ministry? Here's how we're going to do it, and here's how we're going to do it together.' I am going to be doing everything I can to build relationships because without it we're sunk.

With it, I believe there is power in partnerships."

At the conclusion of Executive Committee meetings, a reception was held in honor of Page and his wife Dayle in the Southern Baptist Convention building in Nashville.

## REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

- East Union Church, Magnolia:** Homecoming, Oct. 3; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Johnny Tucker, speaker; Emon White, pastor.
- North Calvary Church, Philadelphia:** 50th anniversary, Oct. 10; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Michael Wells, speaker.
- Carey Chapel Church, Red Banks:** Homecoming, Oct. 10; casual day; services, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and music and games.
- First Church, Wiggins:** Revival, Oct. 10 - 13; Sun., 8:45 and 11 a.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6 p.m.; Chad Grayson, speaker.
- Phalti Church, Pachuta:** 175th anniversary, homecoming, and revival, Oct. 3 - 6; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch. Speaker, Grady Crowl.
- McAdams Church, McAdams:** Homecoming, Oct. 10, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Joe Anderson, speaker; James E. Young, pastor.
- Bethany Church, Merigold:** Revival, Oct. 6 - 9; Wed. - Fri., 6:30 p.m.; Sat., 6 p.m. with meal, 5 p.m.; Tommy Williamson, William Milam, Lowell Ingram, and Jim Futral, speakers; Perry Morgan, music.
- Sunflower Church, Sunflower:** Revival, Oct. 10 - 13; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Wayne Hudson, speaker; Steve & Becky Carver, music.
- First Church, Houlika:** Revival, Oct. 3 - 6; Sun., 10 a.m., followed by lunch, and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Paige Cothorn, speaker; Melinda Kopp, music; David Blackwell, pastor.
- Hillcrest Church, Warsaw:** Old fashioned homecoming and revival, Oct. 3 - 8; Sun., 9:45 a.m., guests introduced and costumes judged; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch, fellowship, and afternoon singing; Mon. - Fri., 6:30 p.m.; Wed., fellowship and snacks, 6 p.m.; David Jordan, Gene O'Brien, Terry Floyd, Jessie French, and Jim Polk, speakers; Geeslin Brothers, Jason Tutor, Megan Tate, First Faith Sardis, Jessie French, and Bluff City Quartet, music; Jim Buchanan, pastor.
- First Church, Water Valley:** 150th anniversary, Oct. 10; services, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Randy Bain and Joel Haire, speakers; other former staff members participating.
- Providence Church, Grenada County:** Revival, Oct. 10 - 13; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Neil T. Gant, speaker; Barry Worrell, music; Tena Taylor, pianist.
- Leflore Church, Holcomb:** Revival, Oct. 3 - 6; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Luke Watson, speaker; Benny Rigby, music; Ray Maddox, pianist.
- Union Church, Tylertown:** 195th anniversary and homecoming, Oct. 10; services, 10:45 a.m., followed by potluck lunch; Michael Knippers, speaker; Arkin Terrell, music.
- East Morton Church, Morton:** Homecoming, Oct. 3; worship, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Larry Duncan, speaker.
- Harrisville Church, Harrisville:** Homecoming, Oct. 10; Bible study, 9 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Cecil Hathorn, speaker; Bob Harris, music; Betty Sapp, pianist.
- Harperville Church, Harpersville:** Revival, Oct. 3 - 6; Sun., 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; John Pace, Mickey Dalrymple, Stan Buckley, and Mark Vincent, speakers; Bobby McKay, pastor.
- Phalti Church and Hephzibah Church, Clarke County:** 175th anniversaries and joint celebration at the Phalti building, Oct. 3; services, 11 a.m.; Grady Crowl, speaker; Bo Sykes, music; Sharron Brown, pianist; Gary Vinzant and Keith Stewart, pastors; revival, Phalti church, Oct. 4 - 6, 7 p.m. with same speaker and musicians.



## BIBLIOCIPHER

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EGJ ZGO VG TGYSO WPS  
LGJTO, WPRW PS ZRYS  
PAV GHTQ XSZGWWSH  
VGH, WPRW LPGVGSYSJ  
XSTASYSWP AH PAF  
VPGKTO HGW USJAVP,  
XKW PRYS SYSJTRVWAHZ  
TAES.

BGPH WPJSS: VAMWSSH

Clue: Z = C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer for last month's puzzle: Luke Twenty-One: Twenty Eight

## ACTS 1:8 - THE COMMAND TO MULTITASK

When Jesus gave us the Great Commission in Acts 1:8, it was not singularly focused on one location. To read it and understand it in any language or in any translation, Jesus said, "Be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all Judea, in Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth." It is everywhere, all of the time, and all at the same time. There are no exclusions and Jesus was not giving us a list from which to choose. When it comes to missions, the people of God must multitask.

A part of the genius of the Cooperative Program is that we are able to touch every area all of the time with the Good News of Jesus, but today in the retooling of Cooperative Program support we have somehow missed out on the broad picture of who we are and what we are supposed to be doing. In September 2010, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention was addressing the Executive Committee of the SBC and explained why his church did not give through the Cooperative Program at the level they had formerly done. At one point, they gave 10% off the top of their church receipts to go to missions through the Cooperative Program. The turning point came when some of the lay leaders were "absolutely appalled" to learn that 60% of the funds they gave remained in the state and that ultimately only 16 cents out of every dollar went to International Missions, so they began to focus on getting the dollars to the ends of the earth. That, of course, is the prerogative of his church or any other church in the Southern Baptist Convention if that is what they choose to do. I do not question his love for the Lord or his passion for a lost world, still I think that it is important to point out some misconceptions that may be in that thought process or at least need to be taken into consideration.

*The first glaring flaw is that the assumption is made that what is being done in state conventions is not really "missions or ministries" worthy of our Lord. Concerning the Cooperative Program dol-*



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

lars that stay in our state, there are some significant things that are taking place that you cannot in any way describe other than being missions. Do you think that it is not missions to help start and nurture new church starts in high-population areas and high-impact areas of our state? Is it not missions when we have Baptist collegiate work on over 30 college and university campuses across our state, providing a beachhead for the cause of Christ on all of those campuses? Does it not seem like the Lord would have us provide a mission to distressed and abandoned children to be cared for — and many of them come to know Jesus as Savior — through support of our Baptist children's homes? How can you not see the hand of Jesus guiding to rescue and redeem those lives as missions and ministries? When you see the thousands of students on our three Baptist college campuses and the training and education they are receiving in a Christian atmosphere and the impact that they will make on the world generation after generation, it is hard to understand how that is not the mission of Jesus.

In everything that I have named and in many other areas, people are coming to know Jesus. Missionaries are being sent to tell the Good News of Jesus. Before there was a Southern Baptist Convention, Mississippi Baptists had joined together

as a Convention to say that we are going to tell our state, our nation, and our world of His saving grace.

*The second misconception is that all of the dollars that stay in a state actually stay in the state. Let me just give you one big example. Sometimes there are special mission projects or targeted needs that can be met by our mission teams and our Missions Mobilization Department. Often we are able to sustain a work or start work in new areas, with the help and support of funds from the Margaret Lackey Offering. There are funds that are maximized in their impact and lives are transformed beyond Mississippi borders, because you give to your state convention.*

*A third misconception and a flaw in the logic is the fact that the work that does take place inside of a state is supported basically by only one state, and that is the state where they are located. On the other hand, the funds that flow on to mission causes are supported by the gifts from 42 state conventions, so while one stream flows into our mission needs in Mississippi, 42 streams or tributaries flow into the total Southern Baptist mission effort. The same logic applies when you look at our churches in the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The average church across Mississippi gives through the Cooperative Program just under 10% of their church income, but that*

provides about 2,000 streams flowing into the state. Should they give 50% and keep 50%, or should they give 40% and carryout ministry on 60%? No, there is power in the cumulative, cooperative relationship of 2,000 churches and 42 state conventions. While many are saying that state conventions ought to try to do their work with 50% of what comes through and 50% go on to other causes, I do not know of any church of any size anywhere that applies that same logic to their local congregation. It is not only distorted logic. It is actually not needed.

*The fourth major consideration I would ask you to think about is what will happen as we try to reach the ends of the earth if we do not continue to keep the base strong. It is easy to see a strong, vibrant, even wealthy church or strong and dynamic state convention and point out their deficiencies and say that they should be doing more than they are doing. It may be true, but whatever they are doing to reach to the ends of the earth cannot ignore maintaining a healthy, viable base to launch all of their efforts for Christ.*

We multitask and we do it together. It is why Jesus said, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all Judea, in Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth." The reality is that if someone comes to know Jesus in the Ivory Coast of Africa or on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi, it is of the same value to God and a celebration breaks out in heaven. Regardless of where they are — Constantinople or Corinth, Baghdad or Batesville, Madrid or Meridian, Hamburg or Hattiesburg — the story of Jesus must be told, and we can do it best when we do it together. May God continue to guide us and give us wisdom and courage as we seek to fulfill His Great Commission to us.

The author can be contacted at [jfutral@mbcb.org](mailto:jfutral@mbcb.org).

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## JUST FOR THE RECORD



17. Allen ordination



18a. New Prospect Church, Brookhaven, youth



18b. New Prospect Church, Brookhaven, children



19. Hand ordination



20. First Church, Foxworth

11. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, is hosting a community singing featuring the Glad Heart Quartet Oct. 16.

12. First Church, Winona, ordained Allan Pratt, Darren Bane, Louie Harrison, and Alan Boone as deacons Sept. 19.

13. Crossgates Church, Brandon, is hosting Refirement 2010 Oct. 10 - 13 for metro Jackson adults ages 55 - up. Free. Fred Wolfe and Philip Jett, speakers. To preregister or for more information, call (601) 825-2562 or visit [www.crossgates.org/refirement](http://www.crossgates.org/refirement).

14. Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, is hosting the William Carey University Chorale in concert Sept. 30, 7 p.m. Free.

15. Pine Grove Church, Magee, is hosting a preaching conference Oct. 3 - 6. Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Mack Harrison, Dan Lanier, Johnny Sykes, and Chad Grayson, speakers.

16. Meadowview Church, Starkville, is hosting Marriage Tune up at the Starkville SportsPlex Oct. 8 - 9. Jeff and Debby McElroy, leaders. Register at [www.mbcstark.com](http://www.mbcstark.com) by clicking on "Save the Date."

17. Mt. Olive Church, Baldwyn, ordained Dru Allen as minister of youth. Shown are pastor David Haynes and Allen.

18. New Prospect Church, Brookhaven, recognizes its Bible drillers. Youth drillers, from left: Jessica Franklin and Haley Ainsworth; children, front row: Anna Catherine Martin, Ainslee Reynaud, Ashlyn Reynaud, and Bransen Ainsworth; back row, Abby Oliver, Allie Rushing, and Madison Franklin.

19. Fellowship Church, Taylorsville, ordained Stevie Hand to the gospel ministry Aug. 1. He has been called as pastor of Bethel Church, Smith County. Shown are pastor Carey Bass, Hand, Danielle Hand, and Smith County AMD Scott Walters.

20. The Young at Heart travelers of First Church, Foxworth, went on a trip to the Amish country of Lancaster, Penn. Shown are the participants.

21. Liberty Church, Newton County, honored Marty Harper & his wife Patsy, and Gary Johnson & his wife Joyce at a luncheon Oct. 15. The two served as



21. Liberty Church, Newton County



22. Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale

associate pastors while pastor Hal Ethridge was serving with the 186th Civil Engineer Squadron from Jan. - Aug., 2010. Ruby Boutwell, music director at Liberty for 30 years, was also recognized. Shown, from left, are the Johnsons, Boutwell, and the Harpers.

22. Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, held a baby dedication on Mother's Day. Shown are Jason and Erica Croom with son Andrew; Chris and Kelly Dixon with son Sawyer; and Duke and Amy Tungett with daughter Addison, son Jack, and daughter Jaycie.

Visit us online at [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org), to learn more about Mississippi Baptist opportunities.

## STAFF CHANGES

1. Jackie Spell has entered the field of full-time evangelism and is available for revivals. He may be reached at (601) 408-2254, or email at [brojps@att.net](mailto:brojps@att.net).

2. Hillcrest Church, Marshall County, has called Jim Buchanan as pastor. He is shown with his wife, Sherrill.



2. The Buchanans



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



3. McCaa



4. Aultman and Harbison



5. First Church, Batesville



6. Bethesda Church, Terry

1. Members and staff of the former Forest Hill Church are holding a reunion at Faithview Church, Raymond, Oct. 2, 1 - 4 p.m. Wilbur Irwin, host; John Johnson, master of ceremonies.

2. Lori Johnson, a member of Thrasher Church, Booneville, has written a book, The Prodigal Penguin, which is available through [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com), or at [jeffjcpa@gmail.com](mailto:jeffjcpa@gmail.com). Johnson is children's director and VBS director at Thrasher Church, and is a kindergarten teacher at Saltillo Elementary School.

3. Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, recognized Lula McCaa July 11 for 30 years of service as ministry assistant. The church presented her with a string of freshwater pearls.

4. Military Church, Sumrall, presented Richard Harbison with a certificate of license to the gospel ministry July 25. Shown are pastor Mike Aultman and Harbison.

5. First Church, Batesville, recently ordained Lee Masterson, Roy Robertson, and Kendall Bowlin as deacons. Shown are transitional pastor P.J. Scott, Masterson, Robertson, and Bowlin.

6. Bethesda Church, Terry, recently ordained Andy Pepper, Charles Hughes, and Tommy Barrett as deacons. Shown are pastor Robby Britt, Pepper, Hughes, and Barrett.

7. Macedonia Church, Petal, ordained Earl Rawls Sept. 12. Shown are pastor Mark Farris, Jody Young, Rawls, Tracy Rawls, Nathan Rawls, and Caleb Rawls.

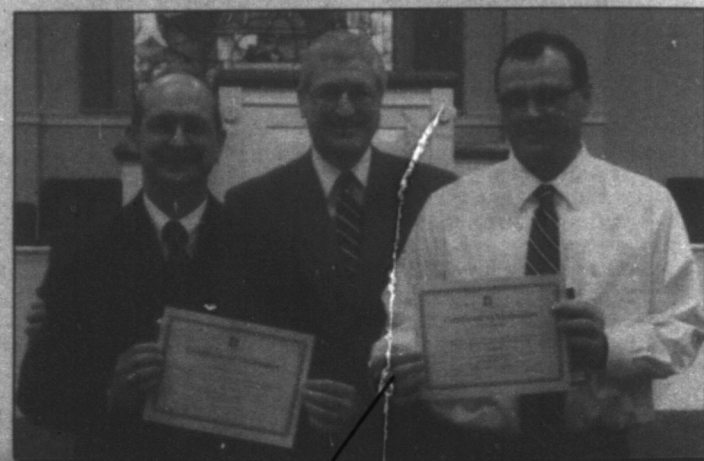
8. New Prospect Church, Olive Branch, recently ordained Daniel Clayton and Charlie Rollins as deacons. Shown are Clayton, pastor Bob Curtis, and Rollins.

9. Grace Church, Philadelphia, held a deacon-ordination service Aug. 29 for Michael Duke and Wyatt Wadell. Shown are Tony Sharp, Duke, Wadell, and pastor Chester Carlisle.

10. Children in Action of Pleasant Home Church, Laurel, designed a quilt for Daniel and Kimberly Gombie, missionaries in Kansas. Shown are the participants.



7. Macedonia Church, Petal



8. New Prospect Church, Olive Branch



9. Grace Church, Philadelphia



10. Pleasant Home Church, Laurel



# Keith Ezell reports for first day as new NAMB head

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — The first person North American Mission Board (NAMB) employees saw at the front door of the building on the morning of Sept. 15 was NAMB's newest employee, who greeted each of them with a smile and a handshake.

It was the mission board's new president, Kevin Ezell, the day after he was elected by trustees to serve as the Southern Baptist agency's third president.

Later that afternoon, despite a sudden bout with laryngitis, Ezell met with NAMB's 250-member staff. While he couldn't say much, Ezell made them laugh and briefly outlined his vision for NAMB.

Ezell was introduced by trustee chairman Tim Dowdy, pastor of Eagle's Landing First

Church in McDonough, Ga. "On behalf of the trustees, I want to thank you for taking the time to pray for us over the last 10 months," Dowdy said.

"We call it a search [for president] but it's more of a discovery process. God knows what He's doing. We don't always know what He's doing or where He is leading, so it's not our job to search. It's our job to discover His will and that's what we did over the last 10 months. It's been a very methodical, prayer-saturated discovery."

Before welcoming him with a standing ovation, NAMB staffers watched a video introducing the 48-year-old Ezell, his wife Lynette, and his five children. The Ezells' two oldest daughters, Anna and Shelly, are students at

Union University in Jackson, Tn. They also have son Taylor, 14; son John Michael, 11, whom they adopted from the Philippines; daughter Libby, 7, adopted from China; and daughter Micah Lyn, 5, adopted from Ethiopia.

"One of the greatest things we can do as Christian leaders is to recognize that people are our greatest resource," Ezell told NAMB's staff.

"There are pastors and laypeople who want to invest and engage in church planting," said Ezell, who is known for his intense passion for church planting. "We need to allow them to be part of missions and do missions. That is what's going to ignite the Southern Baptist Convention."

"Today, we've got the potential of entering a golden age of

church planting. The GCR (Great Commission Resurgence) and Southern Baptists made it very clear that they want us to be about church planting. Fifty percent of NAMB's budget is to be for church planting, so we need to be building the greatest church planting network in the world.

"God has given us the resources. We will have the passion, but we must focus and get it done. We can be the greatest

church planting network the world has ever seen — to God's glory, not our own," Ezell said.

Insisting that NAMB staffers call him Kevin and not Dr. Ezell, the mission board's new president said, "I want you to know that I'm here because I absolutely feel God has called me here, but I don't have a cape with an 'S' on it. I have no white horse. I just want to do the right thing."



**NAMB LEADER** — Kevin Ezell, newly elected president of the North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga., addresses the Southern Baptist agency's 250-member staff on the morning of Sept. 15, the day after he was elected to serve as the organization's third president. (BP photo)

## COLLEGE NEWS

1. **Mississippi College** is hosting a dyslexia conference Oct. 12. Susan Buttross, keynote speaker. Registration, \$50. For details, contact Mitti Bilbo at (601) 925-7766.

2. The solid gold music of the 1950s will find its way back to the **Blue Mountain College** stage October 5-9 when BMC presents a 6-performance production of *The Taffetas*. It's 1950-something, and Kaye, Peggy, Cheryl and Donna, four singing sisters from Muncie, Ind., are making their national television singing debut. "Spotlight on Music," a fictitious weekly 50's television show on the real-life Dumont Television Network, sets the framework for an evening of some of the greatest hits of the 50's. Show times are: 7:30 p.m. Oct. 5; 9:30 a.m. Oct. 6; 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 7; 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 8; and 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 9. Ticket prices are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and children. For complete information call (662) 685-4771 extension 134, or email finearts@bmc.edu.

3. Mortar Board leaders presented their Silver Torch Award to **Mississippi College's** chapter at their national meeting in Chicago. Accepting the award for MC was 21-year-old senior Casey Stevens of Clinton. The 2007 Clinton High graduate and kinesiology major leads the university's 50-member chapter founded in 1978. MC was among 77 college chapters recognized for meeting chapter management standards while they exemplified the ideals of scholarship, lead-

ership and service. Pictured from left to right are Mortar Board members displaying their chapter awards at the 2010 Mortar Board National Conference: Louisiana State University Chapter President Brent Benoit, Mississippi State University Chapter President Colleen Wynn, University of Louisiana at Monroe Chapter President Brent Gibert, University of Mississippi Chapter President Christin Gates and Mississippi College Chapter President Casey Stevens.

4. **Mississippi College** is sponsoring the Hap Hudson Road Race Oct. 16 as a part of homecoming activities. More than 200 runners are expected to participate. Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. and the race is at 8 a.m. Advance registration, \$15; \$20 day of the race. For more information on the road race, contact race coordinator Suzanne McDonough, a professor of kinesiology at (601) 925-7720 or SMcDonou@mc.edu. A registration form may be downloaded at <http://www.mc.edu/faculty/smcDonou>.

5. Seth Smith, outfielder for the Colorado Rockies, will be the keynote speaker at **Mississippi College's** wild game dinner. The event on Nov. 11 will be the biggest fund-raiser of the year for MC's athletic department. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall on the Clinton campus. For ticket information, contact Missa Turman of the MC Athletic Department at (601) 925-3341 or [turman@mc.edu](mailto:turman@mc.edu).

6. **Mississippi College's** Lunch and Learn Series at the Flowood Center will focus on generational care giving and other living skills topics in October. The guest lecturer at the free series will be Gary Mayfield, dean of MC's School of Humanities and Social Sciences and a professor of sociology. The lunch series dates will be Oct. 8, 15 and 22. All of the programs run from noon until 1 p.m. at the center at 115 Laurel Park Cove. The building is located next-door to the Flowood Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center. Flowood Center visitors are encouraged to bring their lunch.



3. Mortar Board award recipients

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# Kosciusko's Chapman honored upon EC retirement

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Kosciusko native Morris H. Chapman was named to the honorary position of president emeritus of the Executive Committee and presented the M.E. Dodd Award for Cooperative Program support during a retirement dinner Sept. 20 in Nashville.



Chapman

"Dr. Chapman, no entity leader has been a greater ambassador for the Cooperative Program and its promotion convention-wide than you," Roger Spradlin, chairman of the Executive Committee, told Chapman. "Throughout his tenure as pastor of four churches over a span of 25 years and as president of the Executive Committee for 18 years, Chapman led the way in his support of Southern Baptists' method for funding missions," Spradlin said.

"During each of his 13 years at First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, the church's Cooperative Program gifts were in the top one percent in the Southern Baptist Convention," Spradlin said. "As president of the Executive

Committee, he never let circumstances dampen his enthusiasm for what God is doing with Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program."

As an M.E. Dodd Award recipient, Chapman received a bronze sculpture of a farmer sowing the Word as he walks across the world, depicting international evangelism.

While other recognitions honor annual accomplishments in CP support, the Dodd award is for sustained achievement.

Spradlin also reported that the Executive Committee, in addition to EC personnel policy retirement provisions, will make additional contributions to health insurance costs for Chapman and his wife Jodi; provide a life insurance policy; and pay travel expenses for the Chapmans to the SBC's annual meetings.

Spradlin also presented Chapman with the title to the vehicle that has been furnished to him by the EC, and made a tribute to Jodi Chapman. "Jodi, it was the desire of the Executive Committee that we also give you a special gift for all of your years of service to

the Executive Committee," Spradlin said.

"Many of us kind of subscribe to the axiom, though, that it may not be wise for any man to shop for any woman. So we thought it not wise to presume what you might want. So we want to present you a gift tonight for \$5,000 for you to use how you see fit."

Other tributes to Chapman were given by friends and family:

— Julian Motley, who was chairman of the Executive Committee's presidential search committee at the time Chapman was elected president, said Chapman has represented Baptists well as an able statesman and strategic leader.

"I think of Dr. Chapman especially as a man with a passionate commitment to evangelism and missions," Motley said. "Any attempt to characterize his leadership must take into account his passion to reach people for Christ. It is obvious that he is a man driven by what 2 Peter 3:9 describes as God's unwillingness that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

— Roy Sparkman, a former member of First Church in Wichita Falls and former Executive Committee member, thanked Chapman for providing a strong biblical foundation for Sparkman's

family and for always leading by faith and by the Scriptures.

— Stephen Davis, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, expressed gratitude for Chapman's friendship and counsel, including advice for discerning God's leading.

— Jay Lowder, a vocational evangelist who surrendered to the ministry through the influence of Chapman and his wife Jodi at First Church in Wichita Falls, recalled Chapman telling him many times, "God always blesses faithfulness."

— Chris and Renee Chapman, Chapman's son and daughter-in-law, provided a musical tribute followed by an expression of love from Chapman's young grandchildren in the form of an acrostic for Grampy.

— The evening also included a historical montage of photos from Chapman's life, narrated by D. August Boto, executive vice president of the Executive Committee.

"It's been a great privilege to serve the Lord Jesus through all these years among Southern Baptists," Chapman said. "My mother was a Methodist and my dad was a Baptist. When they were married, my mother joined the Baptist church, so I was born into the Baptist faith."

"I began to go to church before

I can remember but I do remember at the age of seven coming to know the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior. If I had started at that point and tried to imagine the steps I would take through life, I could have never imagined it," Chapman said.

The Bible doesn't mention retirement, Chapman said, so the occasion simply marks "the finishing of a page, and there's another season coming."

"The best of life is to know wherever you are, whether the world knows your name or not, whether the convention knows your name or not, whether only your family knows your name and loves you, that God has you exactly where He wants you," Chapman said. "As a missionary said years ago, there's no safer place than in the will of God."

Among letters to Chapman from friends upon his retirement, a letter from evangelist Billy Graham was read at the dinner.

"I praise God for the 18 years of faithful service you have given in providing leadership," Graham wrote. "You have carried a heavy load, and God has certainly used you and blessed your vision and efforts in amazing ways during that time."

"Only when we get to heaven will we fully realize the number of lives that God used you to impact for the Kingdom."

## Survey: young adults more tolerant of same sex relationships

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Six in 10 American Millennials — those born between 1980 and 1991 — see nothing wrong with two people of the same gender getting married, but men, African Americans, and Southerners are least comfortable among their peers with same sex marriage. For the most part Christian Millennials oppose it, too.

These are the findings from a LifeWay Research study for an upcoming book by Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, and son Jess Rainer titled, *The Millennials: Connecting to America's Largest Generation*.

The book is based on a wide-ranging August 2009

survey of 1,200 Millennials in the United States.

Millennials are divided in their response to the question, "How much would you agree or disagree with the statement: I see nothing wrong with two people of the same gender getting married." Forty percent agree strongly; 21% agree somewhat; 15% disagree somewhat; and 24% disagree strongly.

Key differences exist by location, gender, race, and religion. For example, nearly half of Millennials in the Northeast and the West strongly agree there is nothing wrong with same sex marriage compared with fewer than one in three Southerners.

Women are far more accepting of same sex marriage than men. Sixty-eight percent of female Millennials agree there is nothing wrong with same sex marriage (49% strongly), while 55% of males feel the same way (32% strongly).

African American Millennials are more strongly opposed to marriage between members of the same gender than Hispanics and Asians, according to the study. Fifty-three percent of African Americans disagree with the statement (32% strongly), while 33% of Hispanics and 36% of Asians disagree (19% strongly).

Opinions on the issue are sharply divided by religion.

Two-thirds of Millennials with no religious preference agree strongly there is nothing wrong with same sex marriage while only one in seven of those who say they trust Christ as Savior agree strongly. Further, 46% of those who say they trust Christ as Savior strongly disagree and in fact find fault with marriage between members of the same gender.

"Discovering a significant difference in the attitudes on same sex marriage between born-again Christians and the rest of culture," Thom Rainer said, "was not necessarily surprising. It will be a critical issue for churches — soon to be led by Millennials — to establish their

biblical positions on the issue of same sex relationships."

In a 2008 study among a sample of American adults of all ages, LifeWay Research found 48% of adults said yes when asked, "Do you believe homosexual behavior is a sin?" At that time, only one in six of those who claimed to be born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christians indicated they did not believe homosexual behavior is a sin.

The 2008 study also indicated that 32% of adult Americans said their decision to visit or join a church would be negatively affected if that congregation taught homosexual behavior is sinful.

## OBITUARIES

1. The former longtime chairman of Mississippi College's Communication Department who served as a mentor to generations of MC students, Billy Lytal died Sept. 21 after a battle with leukemia. A 1961 MC graduate, Lytal worked for 35 years at his alma mater, including two decades as director of the Learning Resources Center from its inception on the Clinton campus. Lytal, who received a master's degree from the University of Mississippi and doctorate at the University of Southern Mississippi, was first hired in 1965 to teach theatre and mass media when Hollis Todd served as chairman of the MC department. Lytal became head of the Learning Resources Center in 1981 and two years later was named chairman of the Communication Department where he served for 15 years. He also served as London Professor of Residence for the 1994 and 2000 terms. Married to Linda Eldridge Lytal, who served in the MC psychology and counseling department, Lytal was also dedicated to his family. The Clinton resident was the father of two daughters, Tara Lytal and Heather Lytal Broadwater, and grandfather of three grandchildren, Morgan Broadwater (14), Mitchell Broadwater (12), and Michael Broadwater (5).

2. George Madison, 85, passed away Aug. 14. He was husband to Bertha (Pixley) for 58 years, and father of four to Stephen (Becky), Paula, Mark (Deborah), and Martha. He was grandfather to Matthew and Daniel. He was a retired minister, educator, gardener, and community advocate. He was born in Troy, Indiana, June 1, 1925 to Alfred and Gertrude Madison and is survived by one sister, Ethel Gobel, of Brownwood, Tex., and many nieces and nephews. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II. He held degrees from Southern Illinois University and New Orleans Seminary. He pastored numerous churches including Murphy Creek Church, Louisville, and was assistant minister of Northside Church, Chattanooga, Tenn. He served as county missionary in Neshoba County. He was later appointed by the Home Mission Board and moved to Detroit, Mich., where he served as pastor of Cass Park Church. He later served as director of the Child Development Center in Highland Park for 30 years. He also served as assistant minister at Tabernacle Church and pastored Calvary Church for ten years, both in Detroit. A memorial service was held Aug. 18 at the Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville, Mich. Final burial and graveside service will be held at a future date at Lick Prairie Cemetery, Mt. Carmel, Ill.



## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

## The Case for Jesus: Sin IS a big deal

Focal Passages: Genesis 3:1-6, 16-19, 24; Romans 5:12-14

By Rick Henson

All humans have good and beneficial appetites, like desires for food, health, reproduction, approval, attention, authority, pleasure, entertainment and others. Yet, when we allow our appetites to control us, we lose control. From the beginning humans got in trouble by allowing their appetites to control them, instead of controlling their appetites. Adam and Eve disobeyed God because the fruit looked like it would taste good, which would have satisfied a physical appetite; it would look good for them to have it, which would have filled their need for attention and approval; and they were told by the serpent it would make them wise like God, which would have sated their appetite for power (1 John 2:16).

All humans have these appetites, though some allow their appetites to control them. A person who craves pleasure may become addicted to drugs, pornography, or sex. One who seeks entertainment may become addicted to video games, or watching television. Once you give in to the appetite, the appetite only wants more. The only way to control an appetite is to say, "No!" If you do not control your appetites, they will eventually control you. God told Cain before he killed his brother in Genesis 4:7, "Sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him," (KJV).

That is the human condition; the Bible calls that sin. Like Adam and Eve, all people rationalize their loss of control to



Henson

their appetites. While the desire to eat is good and leads to healthy living, when the food appetite is in control instead of you, that desire controls you. You overeat, and think more and more about food. Instead of eating to live, you live to eat. Allowing any of our appetites to control us will have the same result.

"I can stop anytime I want to," you may say. The problem is you don't want to stop. One more video game, one more desert, one more drink, one more romantic partner, one more visit to a porn web site, or one more having to always be right in a discussion. One more leads to two more, and so on. The results are the same: whatever appetite is out of line in your life is in control and you are out of control.

Fire in a fireplace warms the home, though it will destroy that home if it gets out of the fireplace. So intimacy is beneficial in a marriage, but will

destroy the marriage outside of it. Proverbs 6:27 reads, "Can a man take fire in his bosom and his clothes not be burned?" (KJV). All of these appetites can be beneficial or destructive, depending on whether the appetite controls you, or you control the appetite.

God offers a marvelous solution in Isaiah 55:1-2, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread and your labor for that which satisfieth not?" (KJV). God asks why we fill ourselves with that which will not satisfy us. Why do we waste our resources buying what will leave us hungry, when He offers to fill us permanently. We try to fill ourselves with what only leaves us feeling empty. When we empty our lives to God, however, He fills us up to overflowing. Jesus said in John 7:38, "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out

of his belly shall flow rivers of living water," (KJV).

The Lord will fill us with Himself through His Son, The Lord Jesus Christ, so that we have no room to be filled with our out-of-control appetites. Proverbs 27:7 reads, "The full soul loatheth a honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet," (KJV). When you are full, even desert looks bad, but when you are truly hungry, you will eat most anything. When our souls are empty, we try to fill them with anything, even what will destroy us. However, when our souls are filled with the Holy Spirit of God, there is no room for sin and rebellion.

We must offer God's solution of filling to those who are empty because they are filled with the results of their own appetites. What a paradox: empty yourself to be filled, or fill yourself and be empty. Which best describes you?

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE  
God's Power Comes by Grace

Ephesians 3:1-13

By Melleen Moore

Has there ever been something you just had to say? It was important to you and maybe to others that your story be told. It could have been a joy, a reward, a promotion or just a humorous story. But there was a reason, it needed to be said.

Recognition of God's Grace  
Ephesians 3:1-2

Paul finds himself in this very situation. He needs to call attention to a gift of God's grace already being experienced by the believers. So he says "For this reason" (Ephesians 3: 2, HCSB) referring to the grace of God that unified both Jews and Gentiles as one in Christ... as stated in Ephesians 2: 16 (HCSB) "...He might reconcile both (Jew and Gentile) to God and in one body through the cross". Paul seems to lose his

train of thought and begins describing his ministry to the Gentiles which he considers a gift of grace. He goes on to explain that he is a prisoner of Jesus Christ, not any form of government. In fact, his imprisonment was caused by his preaching God's grace to the Gentiles. Paul asked haven't you heard "about the administration of God's grace"? (Ephesians 3: 2 HCSB). He recognized and accepted that he was to be a good steward of the grace that God had given him and to share it with the Gentiles. God equipped Paul with the gifts needed—speaking, knowledge, and opportunity to carry grace to the Gentiles.

Receiving God's Revelation  
Ephesians 3: 3-6

Receiving suggests a gift that is ours for the taking. God wants believers to know



Moore

his revelation in His own timing. Paul speaks of the word 'mystery' which may best be understood as a secret that was once hidden—that Jew and Gentile believers would be one body, the church, by the grace of God and the Holy Spirit.

Three specific blessings now belong to the Gentiles—"co-heirs, members of the same body and partners of the promise" (Ephesians 3:6, HCSB). These blessings are only possible in Christ through the revelation of God's gospel. 'Co-heirs' was the realization that Gentiles will share equally with the Jews in the gospel of Christ. For the Gentiles to know the gift of grace was hard for the Jews to accept. 'Members of the same body' means one church as the body of Christ for the Jews and Gentiles alike with Jesus Christ as the head. 'Partners of the promise' identifies the Gentiles as having a promise of a Messiah giving

them hope. The revelation of the gospel for all mankind presents an opportunity and a responsibility to share the good news.

Responding through  
God's Power  
Ephesians 3: 7-10

Just as Paul accepted the gift of God's grace personally, he accepted the opportunity to share this gift with the Gentiles "by the working of His power" (Ephesians 3:7, HCSB). Paul qualifies himself as least of the saints but God uses him anyway. The scripture identifies two tasks for Paul—to preach the unsearchable riches of the Messiah and to draw all of the Jew and Gentile believers into the body of Christ. The riches of God himself are displayed in the church as multifaceted wisdom acknowledging the beautiful colors of God's plan. God's plan to draw all believers together in the church is so magnificent that "rulers and authorities in heaven" (Ephesians 3: 10, HCSB) will take notice. The angels will respond to God's power as

did Paul to fulfill the purpose for the church.

## Rejoicing with Reason

Ephesians 3: 11-13

"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice" (Philippians 4:4 NKJV) is a loved and popular phrase often quoted. Paul is finding reasons to rejoice although he is a prisoner. God's plan was being revealed as the Messiah was uniting all believers together in the church. Paul identifies three evidences of faith in and through Him—boldness, access and confidence. 'Boldness' is seizing the opportunity to speak without fear while 'access' gives the believer an open door to God's presence and 'confidence' comes from doing the right thing. These three evidences have given Paul the courage to persevere. He can rejoice for the believers as they unite in the church. Paul is willing to suffer that God's plan can prosper.

Moore is a member of Macedonia Church, Petal.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

THE BAPTIST  
**Record**

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



**Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director**

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## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

JUNE 2010

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JULY 2010

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## BCV Employment Opportunity

Because the Baptist Children's Village ministry is expanding to 8 campuses across Mississippi to provide more accessible residential services to children in need. With this expansion we need more couples to join our ministry team as Houseparents at the Star, MS and Waynesboro, MS locations. To apply for the current Houseparents openings, please Celeste Cade at 601-922-2242 ext. 309 or go to [www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com) to download an application.

The BCV employs Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife teams, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. The couples must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff. They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregiver and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty. Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.



# Parents: ensure children don't get lost in cyberspace

GRAPEVINE, Texas (BP) — While working at CompUSA to pay his way through seminary, Buddy Knight learned of a grave danger that led to his calling — equipping technologically challenged parents to protect their tech-savvy kids from the dark side of the Internet.

Knight, a former naval intelligence officer and father of four, recalls selling filtering software to a brokenhearted couple whose 14-year-old son was downloading hardcore pornography. Over the following two weeks, Knight's eyes continued to be opened to the "home front" war as he interacted with numerous customers searching for protection against online pornography.

When the first couple he'd helped returned 10 days later, angry that the software they'd purchased hadn't worked, Knight stumbled on a secondary critical issue.

"Did you change the password?" he asked the clueless couple. He discovered that in their own lack of technological prowess, they had naively trusted the software installation to the teenage son they were trying to protect.

Upon earning his master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in 2001, Knight founded Knight's Quest Ministries and developed a Sex, Kids, and the Internet seminar and workbook. His materials teach parents how to best protect their children from the torrent of innocence-robbing dangers in cyberspace.

Vicki Courtney, a Christian author and speaker on youth culture, calls parents to vigilance in her book "Logged On and Tuned Out: A Non-technie's Guide to Parenting a Tech-savvy Generation." Courtney, who writes from a parent's perspective, went from being "tuned out" to "logged on" when her son, who was playing computer games, exclaimed, "I won!"

Courtney asked him if he had defeated the computer, and he responded, "No, I beat some guy in Canada!" Seeing the distressed expression that came over Courtney's face, her son quickly added, "Don't worry, Mom. He's a Christian."

## Parental supervision

Courtney, who advocates tight parental supervision in the use of media, has been interviewed by Fox News and CNN on how she monitors her children's activities. Courtney believes she is providing boundaries that her children need and deep down want. They have become so accustomed to her reviewing their posts that she occasionally runs across "Hi Mom!" shout-outs in their messages to their friends.

Knight agrees that kids find security in a parent's close watch, recalling the mom who told him that her 15-year-old asked that the Net Nanny filtering software subscription be renewed to help him resist temptation.

Both authors acknowledge the many benefits of technology for education, communication, and entertainment, but they also urge parents to learn everything they can about the capabilities of the media products their children use, set rules and monitor use, teach and train responsible usage, lead by example, and teach and keep on teaching a lifestyle of purity.

If they don't, parents set their children up for harmful exploitation and risky cyber behaviors.

Of primary concern to Knight is the overabundance of hardcore pornography and other sexually oriented sites that can flash on a monitor with little effort, or even by a misguided keystroke. Videos, photos, cartoons, and erotic audio books can find their way to a home computer by a simple word search.

Slight errors in typing a Web address can take a child or adult somewhere they never intended to go. And before it can be stopped, the wall of innocence is breached.

"Kids are being exposed to concepts of 'fun' things to do before they are emotionally or spiritually able to handle them," Knight said. "And it doesn't take a Ph.D. to realize that 'monkey see, monkey do.'"

Cybersex and sexting (distributing sexually explicit images of self or others by camera phone or Internet) is a trend among students as young as middle school — a behavior that can damage or destroy reputations.

## Impressionable minds

Johnny Derouen, associate professor of student ministries at Southwestern Seminary and a former youth pastor for 30 years, echoes Knight's concern: "When kids hit ages 12-13, there is a 600% increase in hormones. That hyper-drive combined with easy access to pornography is almost too much for them. By junior high, 80% of teens have looked at hardcore porn. It's just too easy."

Derouen said studies show that it takes three-tenths of a second for an image to become fixed in the mind. "Once it's there, you can't delete it," he said. And pornographers are well aware that age 13 is a "branding age" — if a person starts using something by that time, they have that person for life.

The bad example set by some parents often is part of the problem in Derouen's experience. "Parents are so hooked themselves, even Christian parents," he said. He recounted how one teenage boy had been caught purchasing pornography, but his father refused to stop accessing porn himself. When it was discovered that the son had charged about \$6,000 on a family account to purchase online pornography, it got the dad's attention.

"[W]e've got to teach kids at a young age to guard their hearts and minds," Derouen said.

A second cyber-area needing parental involvement is teaching children what they

should and should not post on the Web. Children do not naturally consider how their posts might damage their character or put them in harm's way.

In Logged On, Courtney states, "Trust me when I say that students are ignorant to the fact that any parent, teacher, employer, college admissions office, or anyone for that matter who is not in their immediate circle of online friends would ever view their pictures."

Courtney describes how, in her research, she repeatedly encountered character-damaging images posted just for fun. "I can't tell you how many church kids I have stumbled across who have turned up in the backgrounds of pictures holding beer cans, smoking cigarettes and engaged in other unwholesome acts, unaware that they were leaving a virtual bread crumb trail of their actions."

Chat is another area where children need to be taught to use caution. Kids often innocently share identifying information online, which can lead an online predator to find them. Predators read posts looking for clues, such as school names, colors, or mascots; names of teachers; phone numbers or e-mail addresses; or details about weekend plans.

In his material, Knight notes that sexual predators find creative ways to meet children online in chat rooms, or playing against them in online gaming such as Xbox LIVE.

"They may play against individuals for days, weeks or months before the predator tries to get more info, but they are there, chatting up our kids," he said.

On social networking venues like Facebook and MySpace, kids post their thoughts, deeds and misdeeds. Careless posts done just to be cool or funny could haunt them years later when character counts. Knight recounted the story of a

young man who was denied a \$40,000 scholarship because of posts in the private area of his MySpace page.

## Tally the time

Another area of concern for parents is the amount of time teens actually spend using technology.

Merritt Johnston, executive director of Sage Ministries, an online and conference ministry for teenage girls and their parents, reports, "When surveying the girls who come to our events, it's not uncommon to find those who are utilizing technology upwards of 18 hours a day."

"The thought of turning off and tuning out media for even a short period of time is such a foreign concept that I fear most never have the opportunity to hear clearly from God due to the overwhelming noise of media influence in their lives."

"I didn't see it coming," documentary writer Rachel Dretzin confessed regarding the isolating influence of technology on her family's home life.

In a webcam-type video format, Dretzin explained how one night she realized that as her family was all together in the same house, they were simultaneously away in other worlds. Her husband and son were working on laptops, and her other children were playing with an iPhone.

Dretzin and Douglas Rushkoff co-wrote and co-hosted the Frontline episode Digital Nation on PBS, a documentary exploring the need to push the pause button and evaluate the consequences of life in a digital society — both positive and negative.

Dretzin and Rushkoff's approach somewhat resembled the age-old illustration of the frog in the slowly heating stewpot.

They showed how people now are customarily conducting major parts of their lives in virtual reality. Business meetings take place in virtual con-

ference rooms, friendships and romances often begin in online "worlds" between avatars (a digital representation of "me").

The information presented begs the question, "Is technology taking us to a place we really want to go?"

## Technology: good or bad?

In the Digital Nation documentary, Todd Oppenheimer, author of *The Flickering Mind*, said, "My concern with this digital media is it's such short attention span stuff that they get bored. It's what I call instant gratification education. A thought comes to you, you pursue it. You see a website, you click on it..."

"All this bifurcates the brain, keeps it from being able to pursue one linear thought, and teaches you that you should be able to have every urge answered the minute the urge occurs."

Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor Sherry Turkle noted, "Technology isn't good or bad; it's powerful and it's complicated. Take advantage of what it can do. Learn what it can do but also ask, 'What is it doing to us?' We're going to slowly, slowly find our balance, but I think it's going to take time."

Derouen said the more time spent communicating through electronic media, the less time is spent communicating face-to-face. He observes that kids are not getting the practice they need in learning how to discern body language and facial expression. "It's hurting them at school and in their jobs," he said.

Though the dangers are serious, parents heads still are generally in the sand, Derouen said. "Most are either ignorant of the issues or they are busy with their own problems and schedules. They love their kids but are so pushed by time that they tend to let it slide."